

The Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A cartridge containing one or more beverage ingredients and being formed from substantially air- and water-impermeable materials, the cartridge comprising or being adapted to have formed therein at least one inlet and a circumferential manifold for the introduction of an aqueous medium into the cartridge and at least one centrally located outlet, the circumferential manifold surrounding the outlet, and characterised in that flow of the aqueous medium through the cartridge is generally in a radially inward direction from the toward the at least one outlet.

Claim 2 (Canceled).

Claim 3 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 2 wherein the cartridge comprises a storage chamber containing the one or more beverage ingredients.

Claim 4 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 3 wherein the storage chamber comprises at least one inlet which is directed inwardly.

Claim 5 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 4 wherein the cartridge is disc-shaped.

Claim 6 (Previously presented): A cartridge as claimed in claim 5 wherein the at least one inlet for introduction of the aqueous medium into the cartridge is located at or near a periphery of the cartridge.

Claim 7 (Previously presented): A cartridge as claimed in claim 6 wherein the circumferential manifold is separated from the storage chamber by a wall, wherein the wall comprises a plurality of inwardly directed inlets.

Claim 8 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 7 wherein the plurality of inwardly directed inlets are radially inwardly directed.

Claim 9 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 8 wherein the cartridge comprises an opening through which the one or more beverage ingredients can be filled into the storage chamber, the opening being closed by a lid, wherein the lid is pierceable in use to accommodate an inflow of an aqueous medium into the cartridge and the lid is pierceable in use to accommodate an outflow of beverage formed from interaction of the aqueous medium and the one or more beverage ingredients in the storage chamber.

Claim 10 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 9 wherein the circumferential manifold is located at a periphery of the cartridge.

Claim 11 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 10 wherein the wall comprises 3 to 40 openings.

Claim 12 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 11 wherein the wall comprises 3 to 5 openings.

Claim 13 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 11 wherein the wall comprises 35 to 40 said openings.

Claim 14 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 13 wherein each opening has a cross-sectional area of 0.45 to 0.65 mm².

Claim 15 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 14 wherein the cartridge comprises an inlet chamber in communication with the circumferential manifold.

Claim 16 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 15 wherein the inlet chamber communicates with the circumferential manifold via one or more apertures formed in a wall of the inlet chamber.

Claim 17 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 16 further comprising a filter disposed between the storage chamber and at least a part of an undersurface of a top of the cartridge, one or more passages being formed between the filter and the top of the cartridge, which one or more passages communicate with the outlet whereby a beverage flow path linking the inlet to the outlet passes upwardly through the filter into the one or more passages.

Claim 18 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 17, wherein the cartridge comprises an outer member and an inner member conjoined on assembly with the outer member, the inner member defining the outlet of the cartridge.

Claim 19 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 18 wherein the inner member comprises a discharge spout defining the outlet.

Claim 20 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 19 wherein the inlet and/or outlet is covered by a substantially air- and water-impermeable material prior to the formation, in use, of the inlet and/or outlet in the cartridge.

Claim 21 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 20 wherein the inlet and/or outlet is covered by a substantially air- and water-impermeable laminate.

Claim 22 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 21 wherein the outer member and/or inner member are formed from polypropylene.

Claim 23 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 22 wherein the outer member and/or inner member is formed by injection moulding.

Claim 24 (Original): A plurality of cartridges, as claimed in claim 23, wherein the percentage yield of the beverage produced from the one or more beverage ingredients contained in the cartridges is consistent to within 1.0 standard deviations.

Claim 25 (Currently amended): A cartridge containing one or more beverage ingredients and being formed from substantially air- and water-impermeable materials, the

cartridge comprising or being adapted to have formed therein at least one inlet for the introduction of an aqueous medium into the cartridge and at least one outlet, characterised in that flow of the aqueous medium through the cartridge is generally in a radially inward direction from the at least one inlet to the at least one outlet, the cartridge comprises a storage chamber containing the one or more beverage ingredients, the storage chamber comprises at least one inlet opening which is directed inwardly, the cartridge is disc-shaped, ~~an~~ the at least one inlet for introduction of the aqueous medium into the cartridge is located at or near a periphery of the cartridge, and a circumferential manifold surrounding the outlet is separated from the storage chamber by a wall, the wall having a plurality of inwardly directed inlets.

Claim 26 (Previously presented): A cartridge as defined in claim 1, wherein the flow of the aqueous medium through the cartridge, in use, is in a general direction parallel to an axis passing through the outlet in a region coaxial with the outlet.

Claim 27 (Previously presented): A cartridge containing one or more beverage ingredients and being formed from substantially air- and water-impermeable materials, the cartridge comprising:

an outer shell having a rim bounding an opening, a sidewall portion attached to the rim, and an upper wall portion attached to the sidewall and spaced from the rim by the sidewall;

a storage chamber containing the one or more beverage ingredients, the storage chamber being at least partially bounded by the outer shell;

a manifold located at the periphery of the cartridge and substantially surrounding the storage chamber, the manifold having a plurality of openings permitting fluid communication with the storage chamber and the manifold at least partially bounded by the outer shell;

an inlet chamber for the introduction of an aqueous medium into the cartridge, the inlet chamber being in fluid communication with the manifold via one or more apertures formed in a wall of the inlet chamber and being at least partially bounded by the outer shell;

an outlet surrounded by the manifold;

an outlet passage permitting fluid communication between the storage chamber and the outlet;

a lid attached to the rim of the outer shell and closing the opening of the outer shell, the lid at least partially bounding the storage chamber, the manifold, the inlet chamber and the

outlet passage, the lid being pierceable in use to accommodate an inflow of an aqueous medium into the inlet chamber, and the lid being pierceable in use to accommodate an outflow of beverage formed from interaction of the aqueous medium and the one or more beverage ingredients in the storage chamber; and

flow of the aqueous medium through the cartridge, in use, is generally in an inward direction from the inlet chamber to the outlet.

Claim 28 (Previously presented): A cartridge as claimed in claim 27 further comprising a filter disposed between the storage chamber and at least a part of the upper wall portion of the outer shell.

Claim 29 (Previously presented): A cartridge as claimed in claim 28, wherein the cartridge comprises an inner member conjoined on assembly with the outer shell, the inner member defining the outlet passage of the cartridge,

Claim 30 (Previously presented): A cartridge as defined in claim 27, wherein the flow of the aqueous medium through the cartridge, in use, is in a general direction from the upper wall portion of the outer shell to the outlet within the outlet passage.

Claim 31 (Currently amended): A cartridge containing one or more beverage ingredients and being formed from substantially air- and water-impermeable materials, the cartridge comprising or being adapted to have formed therein at least one inlet for the introduction of an aqueous medium into a manifold chamber of the cartridge, at least one centrally located outlet substantially surrounded by the manifold chamber, and a storage chamber for the one or more beverage ingredients in fluid communication with both the manifold chamber and the outlet chamber, flow of the aqueous medium through the cartridge is generally in an inward direction from the at least one inlet to the at least one outlet.